

BRIEFS

HOT WEATHER BRINGS COOL CARE PACKAGES

NASHVILLE (BP) — LifeWay Christian Stores is busy breaking out Christmas decorations during the hottest time of the year for the chain's Christmas in July service projects campaign. LifeWay will provide hand sanitizer, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, sanitizing wipes, and other supplies to create care packages. Guests can write encouraging notes while younger children can draw pictures to send with the packages. Guests can visit any LifeWay store to build care packages for different missions: July 9-14, local homeless ministries; July 16-21, disaster relief; July 23-28, North American missionaries.

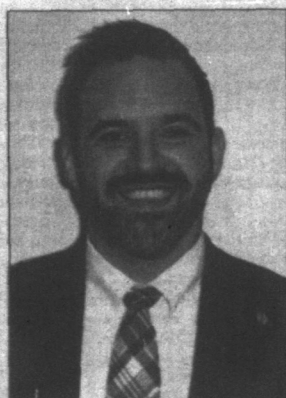
OKLA. TO JOIN STATES PERMITTING POT USE

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Passed June 26 by Oklahoma voters, what may be the nation's most permissive medical marijuana law has left some evangelicals concerned the drug could gain an increased hold on the state because the measure does not specify the ailments for which marijuana may be prescribed — and even minors can legally be approved. Some 40,000 applications are anticipated, the Tulsa World newspaper reported. Among opponents of the new law are the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Commission in Nashville.

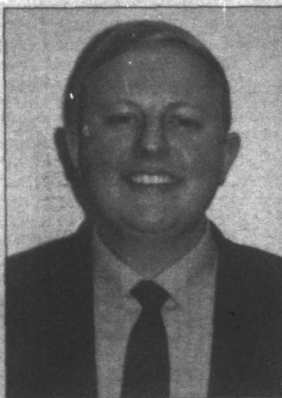
MULTIRACIAL CHURCHES GROWING IN U.S.

NASHVILLE (BP) — More American churches are becoming multiracial, a Baylor University study released June 20 found. From 1998 to 2012, the most recent years for which data are available, multiracial churches grew from six percent to 12 percent of all U.S. congregations. About one in five American congregants attend a multiracial congregation, climbing to 18% in 2012 from 13% in 1998. Catholic churches are the most likely to be multiracial, about one in four. The percentage of multiracial Protestant churches tripled from four percent to 12%, the study showed.

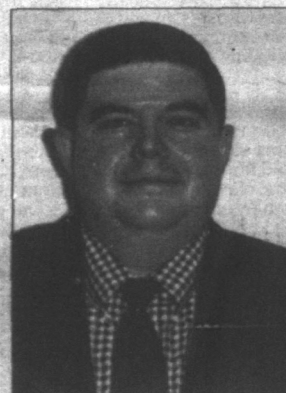
Exec. Comm. fills four BSU positions



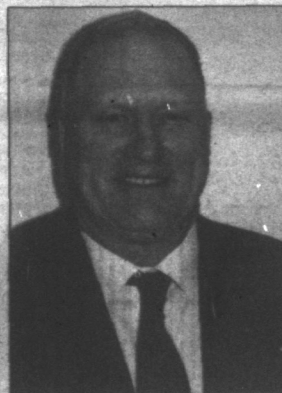
HERNDON



HOFFPAUIR



BARNES



THOMAS

June 29 meeting results in unanimous approval

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, meeting June 29 in the Baptist Building in Jackson, approved four men to lead Baptist Student Union (BSU) programs across the state:

■ Daniel Herndon, BSU director since 2014 at Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, will move to Starkville to assume the post of associate BSU director at Mississippi State University (MSU), effective immediately. He replaces the retiring June Scoggins.

■ Tyler Hoffpauir, who has just completed an internship in Baptist Campus Ministry at Georgia Southern University (GSU) in Statesboro, Ga., will take Herndon's place at Southwest Mississippi Community College. Hoffpauir began his new duties on July 1.

■ Walter Barnes, currently associate pastor of New Palestine Church in Pearl River Association, will become BSU director of Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia, replacing the retiring Tom McLaughlin. Barnes will begin his new duties on August 1.

■ Chris Thomas, student pastor at First Church, Aberdeen, for the past 25 years, will take over as BSU director for Meridian Community College, the MSU Meridian branch, and East Mississippi Community College in Scooba, replacing Justin Busby who moved to Louisiana. Thomas began his new duties on July 1.

Lloyd Lunceford, director of the Collegiate Ministry Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, commended the four to the Executive Committee.

"Daniel Herndon's involvement in reaching students and mobilizing them for missions is a strength he will bring to work alongside [BSU director] Michael Ball at Mississippi State. [Daniel and wife Karen's] involvement as students at Ole Miss and Southern Miss has served as a great foundation for loving students and helping them know and follow Christ," Lunceford said.

The Herndons have three children: Maddox, age seven; Gray, age four; and Lexie, age two.

Tyler Hoffpauir's love for discipling students will be a great asset in building on solid foundation of our work at South-

see BSU on p. 6

Haiti turmoil strands Baptist teams

PORT-AU-PRINCE (BP and local reports) — About 200 Southern Baptists on mission were trapped in Haiti last week after violent riots closed airports.

The Woodland Community Church (Bradenton, Fla.) and The Glade Church (Mt. Juliet, Tenn.) team arrived safely at the airport in Port-au-Prince this morning! the Bradenton church posted on its Facebook page on the morning of June 9.

They are scheduled to return home to the U.S. later today. Thank you for praying for this incredible group during their extended stay in Neply, which is about 20 miles outside of the capital city of Port-au-Prince.

Additional Southern Baptist teams from several churches

in Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana were working to return home this week, according to Baptist Press (BP) interviews and published press reports.

The Southern Baptist teams involved have not reported any injuries to team members.

At least three Haitians were killed July 6 in rioting after the government announced it would raise gas prices that were already high. One pastor estimated gas was five dollars a gallon before the hike. The average wage was about \$2 a day for some Haitians.

The government dropped plans to raise prices after the violence began, and national news reports indicate normalcy has returned to some parts of the capital city.

James Jenkins, church plant-

ing director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, rode out the violence while housed at the Croix-des-Bouquets (Flower of the Cross) mission house in Port-au-Prince with 35 mission members from Louisiana.

He estimated a total of 120 Southern Baptists were at the site, including teams from Alabama and Georgia.

"We're fine. Looks like the gunfire and smoke... have dissipated," Jenkins said today. "I'm understanding at least one team of people left here and went to the airport. We should be able to go to the airport tomorrow."

The Louisiana team composed of several churches arrived in Haiti July 5, just days before violence erupted in response to a spiking gas prices.

see HAITI on p. 6

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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APR 25 2019



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Girding for war

U.S. President Donald Trump's nomination of Brett Kavanaugh on the evening of July 9 to replace the retiring Anthony Kennedy on the U.S. Supreme Court drew tumultuous praise from some quarters and unmitigated condemnation from others. No surprise there. The interested parties are all spoiling for an extended fight no matter the nominee, and it appears everyone is going to get their wish.

Using heavy bold letters and underlines to emphasize their militancy over the nomination, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, the money-raising political action arm of Planned Parenthood Federation of America — the largest baby killing operation in the world — declared on their web site that the conservative Kavanaugh is a threat to the American way of life.

The crisis is here. Trump just announced Brett Kavanaugh as his pick for our next Supreme Court justice — which means our constitutional right to access abortion is at risk. Trump promised to appoint justices who would "automatically" overturn *Roe v. Wade* — and Brett Kavanaugh will tip the balance away from our constitutional right to access abortion and to be free from discrimination. If he's confirmed, the rights we've spent decades fighting for could disappear.

Already, Trump has been filling the nation's courts with judges who are opposed to reproductive rights, immigrant rights, LGBTQ rights, voting rights, and more. With Trump in the White House and anti-reproductive rights ideologues controlling Congress, our health and rights are at risk like never before. Stopping Brett Kavanaugh from sitting on the Supreme Court is a fight for our lives.

The devoutly pro-life Susan B. Anthony List organization, which claims 630,000 members nationwide, made their intentions known, too, through president Marjorie Dannenfelser:

"SBA List is mobilizing the pro-life grassroots nationwide and in key Senate battleground states to urge the Senate to swiftly confirm Judge Kavanaugh. Vulnerable senators up for reelection this year have a choice: stand with the President and

their constituents and confirm a Supreme Court justice who will respect and uphold the Constitution, or cave to pressure from the extreme abortion lobby."

Russell Moore, president of Southern Baptist's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, has pledged to lead a pro-Kavanaugh coalition of Southern Baptist leaders and other evangelicals in the impending battle for confirmation.

In a letter released June 10 by the coalition, it is stated, "With Judge Kavanaugh, President Trump has an opportunity to shape the direction of the Supreme Court for a generation or more. As evangelical leaders, we support President Trump's nominee and will pray and work for a quick confirmation process."

The letter has nearly 40 signatories, including current Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president J.D. Greear, several former SBC presidents, SBC seminary presidents, and other prominent Southern Baptist leaders. To view the unabridged letter and list of signatories, visit www.tinyurl.com/coalition123.

It is unmistakable that all the political bloodletting to come is about the future of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide during all nine months of pregnancy. Both sides — those who favor unlimited abortion and those who favor the complete abolition of abortion — are girding for war over this single issue.

Will Kavanaugh, possibly wearing the black robe of an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, cast the deciding vote to reverse *Roe v. Wade*? If he's confirmed, time will tell. In the meantime, we have a job to do.

Pray that God's will be done, and that He will be glorified. Pray for the Kavanaugh family. Pray for wisdom for those directly involved in the confirmation process. Pray for calm heads among the warring factions. Pray for your enemies who are going to be standing across the line from where you're standing. Pray that this great country will not be torn asunder.

That's a lot for which to pray, and it doesn't scratch the surface. We need to get started. Now.

What a waste

"This is our time," young pastors and church leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention can be heard saying — and so it is. We now are on the shoulders of those who have come before us, and one day atop our shoulders the next generation will stand.

William Shakespeare's dethroned King Richard II — imprisoned, a victim of both treason and his own naivety — muttered a depressing commentary at the end of a lifetime full of regret, awaiting nothing but death itself: "I wasted time, and now doth time waste me."

As a pastor I sat by the bedside of more than a few people whose final days were full of such sorrow. Imprisoned by regret and bound by dwindling days, they realized all too late that their lives had been wasted on things altogether unimportant and unnecessary.

From a Roman prison cell, the Apostle Paul wrote to young Timothy, his son in the faith, on the circumstance of his own impending death. Paul anticipated his final breath with a very different attitude from Shakespeare's Richard II.

"The time for my departure is close," the imprisoned Gospel warrior wrote. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. There is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

In full expectation that this may be his final script, Paul wrote from a position of great contentment. The apostle had poured out his life for the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (v.6) and at the end of his days he reminisced with great joy instead of wallowing in sorrowful regret.

Preach the Word. Be ready. Do the work of an evangelist. Paul wrote these words of urgent exhortation to young Timothy knowing that all too quickly the young man would find himself in the same condition as the old one, reflecting on his yesterdays while anticipating a final breath.

Time passes so quickly. Yesterday I was a preteen boy playing baseball in the backyard with my brothers. Tomorrow I'll be sipping a senior coffee from McDonald's with friends from decades past who do good to just remember my name.



Guest opinion
with Tony Wolfe

I pray for myself and my peers — young pastors and leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention — that this truth grips us quickly. Every breath is a gift from God and every gift from God is to be poured out on the altar of Gospel advance. Not only are useless debates, childish banter and foolish exchanges unbecoming of the people of God, we simply don't have time for it.

This is our time, we suppose, and so it is. May our time be marked by a Pauline sense of Gospel urgency, not Richard II foolishness of wasted years. Call this my Christian mid-life crisis. I'm fine with that but, brothers and sisters, this truth is beginning to catch up with me: If we waste time now, time will waste us later.

God's Gospel story is passing through our generation right now. The name and fame of Jesus Christ is being propagated among the nations and God has invited us to join Him in this eternally significant work.

Let's not waste time with the foolishness of self-promotion or the wickedness of others' degradation. Instead, let's "preach the Word," "be ready" and "do the work of an evangelist." Let's solidify God-honoring partnerships for Great Commission causes instead of dissolving proven missionary methods for peripheral reasons. Let's hold each other to account without holding each other in contempt. Let's pour our lives out for the advancement of the Gospel and selfless service to Jesus' bride, the church.

Our commission is too great and our time too short for anything less.

Wolfe is director of pastor/church relations for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention in Dallas. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style.

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'Insider Movements' are dangerous, warn scholars

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP and local reports) — A new book edited by two Islamic studies seminary professors at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., explores the weaknesses of the popular "Insider Movements" in Muslim missiology.

Muslim Conversions to Christ: A Critique of Insider Movements in Islamic Contexts, released last week, is a multi-author academic response to Insider Movements, a missiological approach that argues Muslims can confess Jesus as Lord and remain Muslim, according to Islamic studies professor Ayman S. Ibrahim, an editor of the book.

Ibrahim is the Bill and Connie Jenkins Professor of Islamic Studies and director of the Jenkins Center for the Christian Understanding of Islam at Southern Seminary. Ant Greenham, an associate professor of missions and Islamic studies at the seminary, is a co-editor of the book.

Mutually exclusive

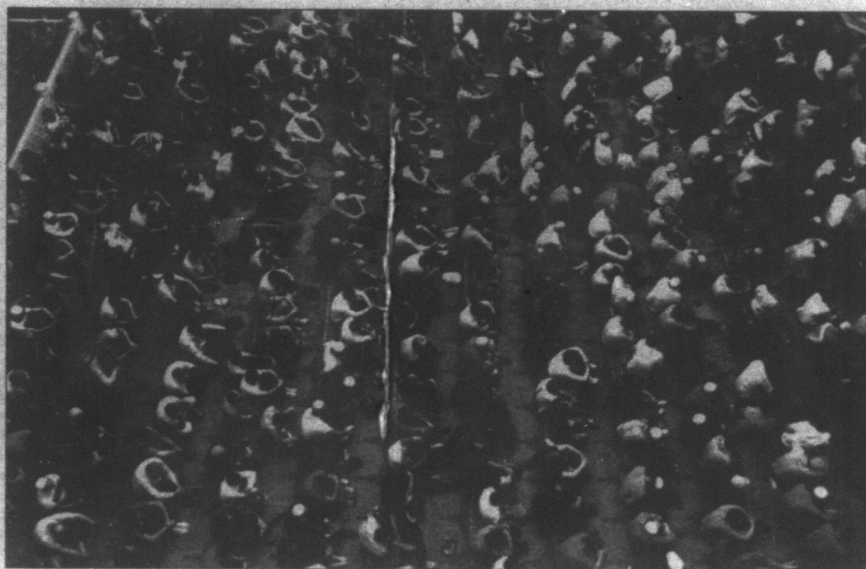
In contrast to Insider Movements, which often argue that missionaries shouldn't push Muslims to openly confess Christianity, the book argues that Christianity and Islam are mutually exclusive.

"What Insider Movements' proponents do with Scripture — specifically by overlooking it — is more problematic than what they say about it," Ibrahim said in an interview. "Insider Movements proponents allow experiences to dictate theological understanding, elevating them to become prescriptive instead of descriptive."

Two of the main proponents of Insider Movements, Harley Talman and Kevin Higgins, are both American missiologists and contribute two chapters to Muslim Conversions to Christ — one exploring how the Insider converts view the Quran and use it after their conversion to Christianity and another defending the Insider Movements ideology from the text of the New Testament.

The rest of the book, written by international scholars and practitioners, is a series of responses to Insider Movements arguments, as represented by Talman's and Higgins's basic claims.

According to a credit line in an article by Talman in the Winter 2013 issue of the International Journal of Frontier Missiology, he has "worked with Muslims for 30 years, including two decades in the Arab world and Africa, during which he was involved in church planting, theological education, and humanitarian aid. Talman holds a ThM from Dallas Seminary and a PhD from Fuller. He presently teaches Islamic studies."



GROWING EVERY DAY — Thousands of Muslims gather for Friday prayers at Moscow's Grand Mosque in Russia. The mosque, which holds more than 10,000 worshippers, was demolished and rebuilt on a larger scale to accommodate the city's growing Muslim population. It reopened in 2015 and already is bursting at the seams. (IMB photo)

The web site, missionfrontiers.org, lists Higgins as "the International Director of Global Teams, which is devoted to equipping teams from many nations to multiply disciples of Jesus within cultures least aware of the Gospel. Kevin has been used to initiate discipling movements among several Muslim peoples, and is currently working on a PhD in Bible translation."

Insider indicators

Ibrahim first began seriously studying the Insider Movements phenomenon in 2015 after hearing from a concerned Christian friend who had been reading some of the movement's literature. As Ibrahim explored the movement, he noted it suffers from a limited, Western perspective and features no voices from people living in Muslim contexts.

Although the arguments voiced by proponents of Insider Movements are varied, they ultimately have five main features, according to Ibrahim:

- Islam's Muhammad is a prophet in a biblical sense.

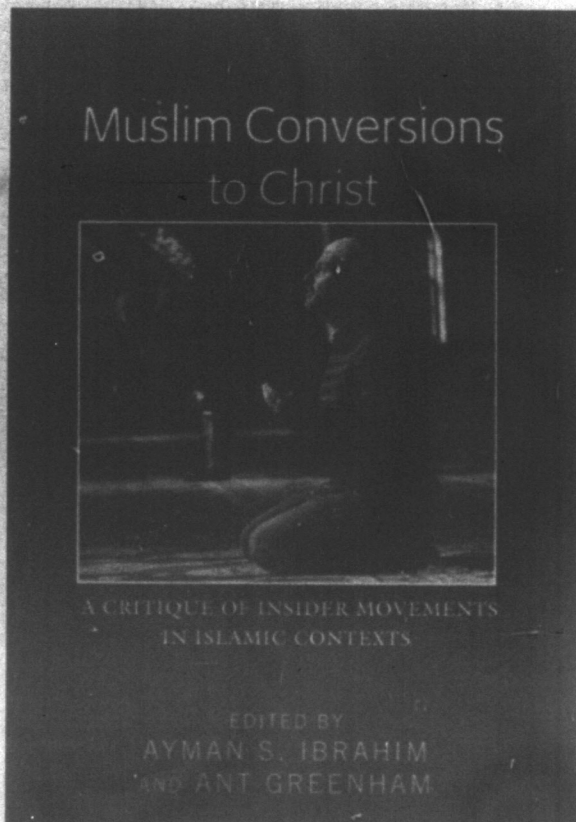
- Muslims can be born-again Christians without denying their identity as Muslims.

- The Quran is still useful as Scripture.

- Biblical language that is problematic in an Islamic context should be altered.

- The true Christian church is invisible and need not be physically distinct from a mosque or some other Muslim community.

Not all Insider Movements proponents would affirm each



of these, Ibrahim noted, but affirming any one of them still compromises biblical and theological orthodoxy and has a deleterious effect on the mission of the Gospel, he said in an interview.

"We cannot view Insider Movements as a monolithic entity," Ibrahim said. "The proponents are different from each other and treat things differently. One scholar may say that Muhammad was a prophet in a

biblical sense, but another scholar may disagree. This book is intended to interact with those arguments and demonstrate how dangerous these arguments are for the sake of the Gospel."

Book's construction

The book is divided into three parts. First, Brent Neely writes a long essay on the person of Muhammad, critiquing what he calls "revisionist" interpretations of the founder of Islam.

Neely, who is working toward a doctorate from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., ministers to refugees in Europe and served with his wife in the Middle East for nearly 20 years.

Part two of the book features 15 lengthy essays from academics addressing a broad range of biblical, theological, historical, and missiological issues relating to Insider Movements.

In part three of the book, a wide variety of contributors including missionaries and practitioners write 16 short articles from the perspective of people serving on the field in Australia, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Many of the contributors are Christian believers from Muslim backgrounds, Muslim scholars, or missiologists living in the Middle East. The book features the writing and research of Christian scholars from all six continents, representing not only ethnic diversity but also a great deal of personal and academic experience interacting with Muslims.

This experience, Ibrahim said, is crucial to their evaluation of Insider Movements.

A warning

"Muslims are coming to Christ in millions. The Insider Movements' approach to Islam — claiming the prophethood of Muhammad and the validity of the Quran for converts — hardly constitutes the only Christian option," Ibrahim said.

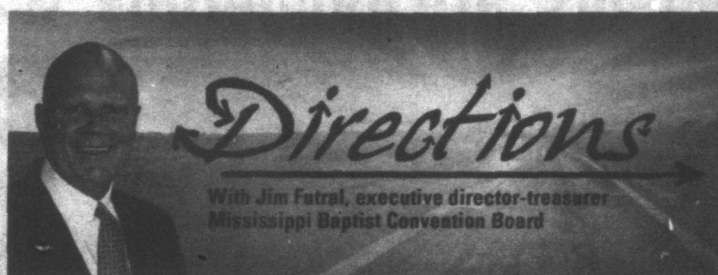
"Instead of relying on western arguments, as Insider Movements' proponents do, we brought in one volume the voices of Christians from Africa, Asia, Europe, [and] Australia, including believers from a Muslim background. All strongly warn against the claims of Insiders."

The new book, available on Peter Lang Inc. or Amazon for \$114.95, also features an essay by Ibrahim and an introduction by Southern Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr., along with contributions from Southern Seminary professors Timothy K. Beougher, associate dean, and George H. Martin, chair of the department of evangelism and missions.

Recently I was sitting in an office waiting for an appointment. I picked up a magazine and was flipping through it. I ran across an article encouraging people to research their family history. It was pressing the point that your genealogy is important. If you get to digging around in your history and find out who your great-great-grandparents were and where your aunts and uncles lived, you'll probably find pictures. You may find great accomplishments or significant failures. You may come across health issues they had, disappointments they experienced, funny things, and heart-breaking things. The good, the bad, and occasionally the ugly.

For a variety of reasons, it is important to have some sense of where you came from and who your people were, and it is not always easy to find. The truth is, some folks don't want to know who their family was. Why? Well, there are some folks who may not like what they find. Other folks don't want to know because they don't like the family that they do know. Still, if you have some time to ramble around through your history, it might be an exciting and rewarding journey. Personally, I have not gotten into genealogy a great deal. About as far as I have looked is to get in contact with my great-great-grandparents. No, I didn't know them but I know stuff about them. Beyond that, I have had some of my own kinfolks who spent a great deal of time, effort, and even money tracing my mother's lineage all the way back to Founding Fathers here in the U.S. of A.

For you and for those who come after you, it may be a worthwhile venture to spend some time walking through your past as you journey into your future. Of course, if you are related to Abraham, David, Jonah, or some of the apostles, the Bible serves as a great book to trace a lot of your heritage, but there are not many of us who connect that far back. At the same time as you think about that, you know that there are some Bible characters to whom you would just as soon not be connected. The article I was reading didn't go into all of this, but let me just point out some things that you might find if you



Know Your Family

began to look into the folks that make up your family tree.

You may find some folks who failed. In fact, you may even find some notorious kinds of folks, some legendary kinds of folks, especially in a local setting. The folks who just messed up. Maybe they did dumb things or said dumb things or just went crazy, but they are remembered because of their great failures. Before you get too upset with those folks, just remember that in a sense, that's all of us. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Every one of us has sinned. So many times I think about one of our workers in one of our prisons as I was visiting there this past year. He made the observation and the comment, "What if you were constantly thought of and remembered for the worst thing you ever did?" He was talking about the inmates in that facility, each of them marked and known by at least one of the worst things they ever did. It's before them every day and everybody around them and people who don't even see them. What if that was the information provided to everybody around you? Every day you brought about the terrible pain you thought and did and said about it. It's kind of a bad deal, isn't it? Sometimes people would find that our past has a historical mark beside it that makes everybody think

that's who they were and all they ever did. They failed. They may have stolen something, killed someone, ruined somebody's life, gone to prison, or died themselves in a terrible way as they hurt somebody and now everybody remembers that act. You may find in your family tree that some have failed. Maybe you never knew them and you don't know much about them. You might do well to look at them through eyes of grace.

You may find some folks who flourished. It's not unusual to find faithful, consistent, hardworking people who just simply got up each day and faced life. You will find some of those people whose names may not be known far and wide, but they courageously anchored their lives to faith and faithfulness and pressed forward day by day into the troubles of life and continued to move forward even in the face of hurt and hardship. Those kind of folks you need to know. Even though you may have never heard their voice or seen their smile, your family heritage is enriched by them. Courageously they lived, and they can be celebrated even now. You may find them faithful in their church, faithful in their community, and faithful to their country. Strong, sturdy, simple, caring people. They flourished and made this world a better place.

You may find some folks who

failed and then flourished. No doubt, you may find as most of us would some folks who failed and then flourished by God's grace, love, and mercy. That may be the bulk of the folks we find that make up the largest number of who we are. Folks who have failed but didn't stay down and got up, began to press forward, and found faith flourishing in their lives and hope on the horizon of life as they lived for the Lord and made a difference even though they may have fallen in the past.

They did not and neither do we need to stop at the pits of pain, places along the pathway of life that would stymie you, stop you, back you up, shut you down. It could be bankruptcy or divorce, an injury or lost job. It can be an embarrassment or an overall heartbreaking failure. Don't stop there. You can get back up and move forward. God is not through with you. Just like He picked up one after another after another when He was walking the paths around the Holy Land in His day. He comes along now and touches lives and renews them, reinvigorates them, enables them to get up and go forward today. He may be writing the history at which future generations will look back and be encouraged. Leave a marker for them. Maybe you've failed but then you flourished. Maybe you dropped out of church and find it hard to get up and go back and sing and sit and share and you just wonder how that will all be. Let God guide you and get up and face it even this week. Maybe you have had a broken relationship with a friend or a family member and it has brought pain to your heart for days or weeks or maybe even years. Why not today look for that path that God would give you to reestablish that relationship and enable you to be strong and blessed again? Today is the day that you not only can find some of the folks in your family failed and then flourished who will write the story for people who will come and look back and say, "My grandmother/grandfather..." and tell the story of not your failures but your flourishing in spite of your failures.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Vacation Bible School



ESCATAWPA CHURCH, ESCATAWPA, recently conducted Vacation Bible School. Pictured are participants.



GRIFFITH MEMORIAL CHURCH, JACKSON, recently held Vacation Bible School with an average attendance of 135.



FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, GRENADA, held Vacation Bible School June 11-15 with the theme, Shipwrecked - Rescued by Jesus. Average attendance was 100, with 81 adults and youth helping.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 12, 2018

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

CMM

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REVELATION

THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES



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Dates: September 4, 11, 13

Registration: 8:30-9:00 a.m.

Preview: 9:00 a.m.-noon

Register online at www.mbc.org/jbs to
receive a 50% discount on the purchase of
your leader guide. You will receive your book
at the event.

For more info, contact the Sunday School/Small Groups
Department at elindlgrn@mbc.org or call 601-292-3292.

LEADERSHIP

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018

6:00-8:45 p.m.

Macedonia Baptist Church
Brookhaven

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2018

6:00-9:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church
Brookhaven

Visit www.msleadershipu.org for registration and lists of classes
offered!

For more information, please contact Discipleship/Family Ministry at
601-292-3284 or e-mail lpresque@mbc.org

Online Giving

Do you want to avoid the stress of cash flow for your
church? Online giving is the way to do it! It inspires
the younger generation to give and moves you into
the world of tomorrow!

Contact the Stewardship Department at 601-292-3347 or
lleavell@mbc.org for suggestions and additional info.

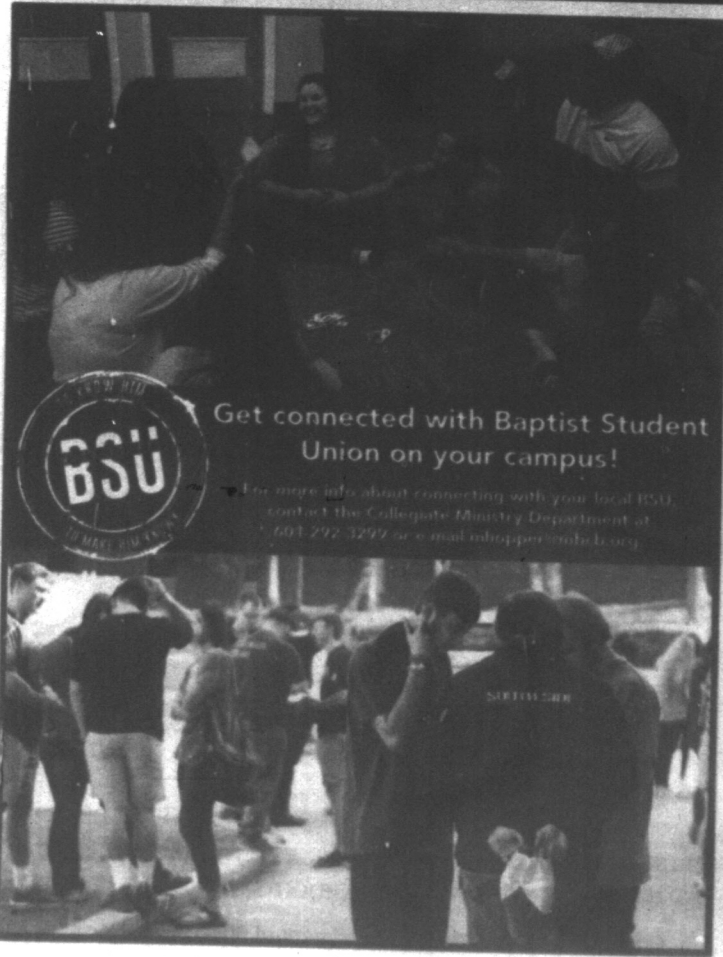
keeping your CHURCH OUT of court

To purchase a notebook(s) for you or your church,
please visit: tinyurl.com/KYChOOC

Cost of notebook is \$10

• Michael Lee, Pastors Leadership Development
Department director, is available to dialogue about legal
issues or to lead meetings or conferences on site

Organized by the Pastors Leadership Development Department, MBCB

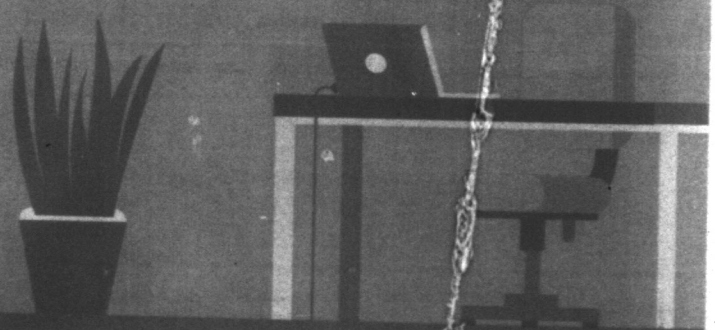


Get connected with Baptist Student
Union on your campus!

For more info about connecting with your local BSU,
contact the Collegiate Ministry Department at
601.292.3299 or e-mail info@cmhcb.org

SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2018

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TRAINING FOR WMU MISSIONS AND
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LITERACY MISSIONS CONFERENCE

JULY 26-28, 2018

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MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018 | 8:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

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~ KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ~

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Pray this day for...

July 13 - July 26, 2018

"praying at all times in the Spirit...To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."
Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **Kenneth & Kimberly Hathcock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Earl & Ramona Hewitt**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through medicine & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Cynthia Hodgins**, missionary ministering to Deaf Peoples through church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Jeffery & Lissa Holman**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Ronald & Beverly Holmes**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Daniel & Claudia Hood**, missionaries ministering to North African and Middle Eastern Peoples through general evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Millard Jones**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Susan Jones**, missionary ministering to East Asian Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy & Rebecca Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert Mooney**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Stephen & Svetlana Parish**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Kevin & Brenda Peacock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through theological education & church/home outreach evangelism.



Miss Abigail
9/20/12
Parents: B & J
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Miss Macgan Putnam
9/27/01
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European Peoples

To Be Sent August 24, 2018, by the WMU Office



PLEASE NOTE THE TIMING: Thank you for your love and support of MKs by sending Birthday cards! Because of the sending to other countries, there is a need to get cards sent a month ahead of birthday. As soon as the list is in the Baptist Record, please send the cards and not wait until a couple of weeks before the date of the birthday. It is posted two months ahead to give time to receive cards and then to mail them a month ahead of time to insure arrival around birthday. Again, thank you for being a blessing to so many with this ministry!

NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

FOR SECURITY: cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MBCE WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205. Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



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ISAIAH 53:1

Contact our Mission Strategy Department at 601-292-3231 or e-mail bhbridges@mbcb.org for more information.

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YCX ENYM QKN HBVA GBUJB

XVLEUHVQPDDM PLV MKP.

DPFV LUS: HGVCHM-VUWBH

Clue: Q = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John 14:3

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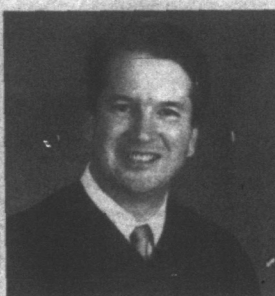
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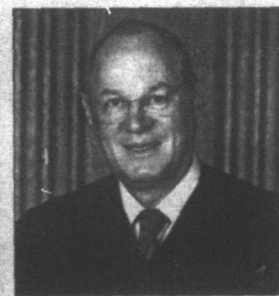
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KAVANAUGH



TRUMP



KENNEDY

Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nom stirs hope, exasperation

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) - U.S. President Donald Trump's nomination of Brett M. Kavanaugh, 53, to the U.S. Supreme Court on the evening of June 9 quickly ushered in guessing games of how long the detested *Roe v. Wade* abortion ruling and other high court decisions favored by liberals will survive.

Retiring Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy, a nominee of U.S. President Ronald Reagan described by many observers as a moderate, has long been the high court's swing vote on many controversial decisions that had conservative and liberals splitting 4-4. A 30-year veteran of the court, his retirement will be effective July 31.

Battle lines

The Senate will vote on Kavanaugh's nomination this fall, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said from the floor of the Senate on June 28. Democrats and liberal advocacy organizations have already signaled they will fight any nominee from Trump.

While defenders of abortion rights and other causes predicted doom if another Trump nominee like his first Supreme Court nominee, Neil Gorsuch, is confirmed, evangelical and conservative leaders expressed hope for a certain type of jurist.

"The present vacancy comes at a critical moment, as Christians increasingly find themselves having to defend the most basic of American freedoms in courts of law," said Andrew Walker, director of policy studies for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville.

"President Trump has an opportunity to nominate a jurist who sees his or her job as an opportunity to interpret the Constitution as it is, not as one wants it to be," Walker told Baptist Press in written comments. "Our country needs a judge on the Supreme Court, not someone who discovers illusory rights in it."

Michael Farris, president of Alliance Defending Freedom in Scottsdale, Az., said in a written

statement his organization looks forward to a nominee "who will uphold the First Amendment and the original public meaning of the Constitution."

The Alliance Defending Freedom takes on the most difficult lawsuits attacking religious freedom, such as the cake baker from Colorado and the florist from Washington State who declined to become involved in same sex weddings because of their religious beliefs.

Under McConnell's leadership and the support of fellow Republicans in the Senate, Congress' upper chamber changed its rules before approval of Gorsuch in 2017 to require only a majority vote to confirm a nominee to the Supreme Court. Previous Senate rules required a super-majority for confirmation.

Counting the votes

Republicans hold a 51-49 edge in the Senate. With Vice President Mike Pence, a Republican, standing by to cast a tie-breaking vote if necessary, Republicans could still push Kavanaugh through the confirmation process without any Democrat votes - if Republicans don't have more than one defection and Pence is called on for the tie-breaker.

However, handicapping the vote has already begun as observers try to figure out which Republicans may defect to vote "no" and which Democrats may defect to vote "yes."

ERLC President Russell Moore and Farris both acknowledged Kennedy's legacy is a mixed one. He provided important votes and sometimes opinions in defense of freedom of religion and speech, but he also offered critical support for abortion rights and same sex marriage.

Advocates for abortion rights especially expressed despair about another nomination from Trump with his party in control of the Senate.

"Abortion will be illegal in twenty states in 18 months," tweeted CNN Senior Legal Analyst Jeffrey Toobin shortly

after Kennedy's retirement was announced.

Reversal aftermath

Nancy Northrup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights, said in a written statement that Kennedy's retirement was devastating news. "The stakes of the coming nomination fight are extraordinary. The future of reproductive rights is on the line."

Confirmation of a fifth conservative to the high court does not assure reversal of the 1973 *Roe* decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

Associate Justice Clarence Thomas is the only current member of the Supreme Court who has called for overturning *Roe* in a written opinion. The other conservatives are Chief Justice John Roberts, Associate Justice Samuel Alito, and Associate Justice Gorsuch.

If *Roe* is reversed, abortion would not be universally outlawed but would return to the states, which had jurisdiction before the high court invalidated all abortion restrictions in its *Roe* ruling.

In the case of a reversal, the right to abortion would be "at the highest risk of loss" in 23 states, according to the Center for Reproductive Rights. Abortion rights appear to be secure in 19 states, the center reported earlier this year. The status in the remaining eight states is not clear.

Personal

Kavanaugh, a native of Washington, D.C., is Roman Catholic, joining if confirmed fellow Roman Catholic justices Clarence Thomas, nominated by U.S. President George H.W. Bush; Samuel Alito, nominated by President George W. Bush; Sonia Sotomayor, nominated by President Barack Obama; and Chief Justice John Roberts, nominated by President George W. Bush.

Kavanaugh has been married for 14 years to Ashley Estes Kavanaugh, a Texas native. They have two daughters, Margaret and Liza.

HAITI

cont. from p. 1

"This happened basically on the second day we were here," Jenkins said. Mission team members who had split into three groups to conduct pastor training, Vacation Bible School, and construction outreaches were summited back to Croix-des-Bouquets.

"For two days (afterwards) I would say it was tense," Jenkins told BP. "We were blessed that this started to occur when we had come back to the compound that first night. We were not able to leave the compound."

Gunfire was coming "from any direction" at the height

"They (LCM) have been very accommodating to us in allowing us to extend our trip. Everyone's in good spirits. We have plenty of food and water. We feel safe and secure where we are. We miss our homes.

We miss our families, but our main objective is to remain safe."

Jason Webb

pastor of Mt. Olivet Church in Hartwell, Ga.

of the violence, Jenkins said. "They were burning tires, explosions going on, and mission teams realized the importance of following government contingency plans for evacuation and safety."

"It just was a tough situation," he said. "We see light at

the end of the tunnel."

Georgia pastor Jason Webb is lodged with a 22-member mission team about 55 miles from Port-au-Prince at Life Connection Mission (LCM) in Montrouis. Webb, pastor of Mt. Olivet Church in Hartwell, Ga., has reserved a flight

to return home Friday, he told BP today.

"There are protests scheduled for today and tomorrow, and hopefully by Friday the protests will be over and we'll be able to have safe passage to Port-au-Prince," Webb said. "That's our hope."

Webb and his team arrived in Haiti June 30 for mission outreaches including a medical clinic, food distribution, VBS, and construction work, and originally planned to return home July 7.

"They (LCM) have been very accommodating to us in allowing us to extend our trip. Everyone's in good spirits. We have plenty of food and water. We feel safe and secure where we are," Webb said. "We miss

our homes. We miss our families, but our main objective is to remain safe."

He could hear gas cans exploding Saturday, Webb told BP, and encountered a road block when the team ventured onto the street after Sunday worship.

Chris Watson, senior pastor of GracePointe Church in Douglas, Ga., has received a good report from his 36-member mission team on the island.

"They are doing well," Watson told BP. "They are in the city of Léogâne, which is about an hour away from Port-au-Prince. They were supposed to return Saturday, but obviously those plans changed. They have been in good spirits and have had adequate resources."

BSU

cont. from p. 1

west," Luncford pointed out.

In addition to Hoffpauir's internship at GSU, he has been serving in a part-time role as college minister at First Church, Statesboro. He graduated in 2017 from New Orleans Seminary with a master of divinity degree with an emphasis in collegiate ministry. Hoffpauir and wife Jana, a high school English teacher, have been married five years.

"Walt Barnes has been a frequent speaker on many of our campuses," Luncford noted. "He served from 2012-2015 with [former Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College District BSU director] Matt Middlecamp and [present director] Steven Craver at the Jefferson Davis campus [in Gulfport]."

"Walt's love for college students and the ministry of BSU has marked his life since his

student days at Itawamba [Community College in Fulton] and Ole Miss."

Barnes and his wife of 12 years, Catherine, have two daughters: Izzy, age five; and Lottie, age two.

"Chris Thomas is no stranger to the work of BSU. Since 1998 he has served on the advisory committee of the BSU at Itawamba Community College. Chris has had a fruitful ministry with junior high, high school and college students. He has

been very involved in the lives of his students... and worked closely with other student pastors in the work of our convention. He has always been an advocate for the ministry of BSU," Luncford said.

For more information on Mississippi Baptist collegiate ministry, contact Luncford at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3299. E-mail: luncford@mcb.org. Web site: www.mcb.org.

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Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard

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must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

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1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Grieved • 2 Samuel 13:15-20, 31-39

"In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David," 2 Samuel 13:1 (NIV). In the Middle Eastern Royal Courts with extensive polygamous marriages and large harems, family relationships became very complex. Amnon and Absalom are half brothers, Absalom is Tamar's brother and Amnon is Tamar's half brother. These complicated relationships and living arrangements caused much confusion and certainly did not lead to healthy, happy families or homes.

Amnon was King David's oldest son and expected to follow him on the throne of Israel. Amnon's feelings for Tamar are a perfect example of the sin of adultery of the heart as taught by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart," Matthew 5:27-28 (NIV). This active unfulfilled lust took a great toll on Amnon. "Amnon became frustrated to the point of illness on account of his sister, Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her," 2 Samuel 13:2 (NIV).

Amnon was very frustrated but continued to lust and scheme. He knew that his father, King David, had lusted after Uriah's wife, Bathsheba, and sent

servants to bring her into his bedroom and then killed Uriah to cover his adulterous affair. Since Amnon fully expected to become King, he felt entitled to do anything he wanted just like David. Amnon probably had never known what Nathan told David after telling him God would honor his repentance and not kill him for his sins involving Uriah's wife and the murder of Uriah. "You (King David) killed him (Uriah) with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own. This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you,'" 2 Samuel 12:9-11 (NIV).

The calamity from your own household appeared in one way when Amnon's cousin, Jonadab, offered an evil devious scheme to trick Tamar into Amnon's bedroom where he could over power and rape her. Amnon succeeded in carrying out this sorted scheme and raped her. Then, he rejected her

and had his servants throw her violently out, even though she begged her brother, Amnon, not to.

Then, the next calamity from David's own family develops. Absalom discovered what had happened and began to plan how to take vengeance. Absalom tells Tamar not to tell anyone about being raped so he could plan his revenge without anyone noticing his scheme. Absalom's patient development of his

scheme is a perfect example to illustrate Jesus' teaching about murder in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus said, "You have

heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment. But I tell you anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment,'" Matthew 5:21-22.

For the next two years Absalom seethed quietly with anger against his brother. Absalom began to implement his plan to murder his brother, Amnon. His plan was so evil that he even invited their father, King David, to the party where he was to kill Amnon. Ap-

parently Absalom was certain the King wouldn't come but the invitation provided more cover for his evil scheme. Absalom callously manipulated King David to send Amnon, his crowned prince, to represent the kingdom at the Sheep Shearing Festival.

"Absalom ordered his men, 'Listen! When Amnon is in high spirits from drinking wine, and I say to you, 'Strike Amnon down,' then kill him. Don't be afraid. Have I not given you this order,'" 2 Samuel 13:28 (NIV). Word mistakenly reached David that all of his sons had been killed. 2 Samuel 13:32 (NIV) explained, "My lord should not think that they killed all the princes; only Amnon is dead. This has been Absalom's expressed intention ever since the day Amnon raped his sister Tamar."

"After Absalom fled and went to Geshur, he stayed there three years. And the spirit of the king longed to go to Absalom, for he was consoled concerning Amnon's death," 2 Samuel 13:38-39 (NIV). The calamity prophesied by Nathan continued. Absalom came back to Israel but he and David never visited with each other and finally Absalom openly rebelled after four years.

Hicks is associational missions director for Jasper Association in Bay Springs.



Explore the Bible

with Don Hicks

Tithing: An Obedient Response to a Gracious God • Malachi 3:7-12

Tithing is referenced throughout the Old Testament. Tithing was a way of expressing obedience and thankfulness to God. In the beginning of Malachi, God reminds His unfaithful people of His faithful love. The people are offering substandard sacrifices (Malachi 1); the priests are not honoring God (Malachi 2). God is warning that judgment is coming (Malachi 3).

Malachi 3:7-10a. Obedience is reflected in our giving. God accuses His people of disobedience, of cheating Him (of robbing Him - NIV). They aren't aware of their sins: "...What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?" You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me," Malachi 3:8 (NLT). The people have either grown so hard that they are unaware of their disobedience; or, they are justifying their actions and choosing to perform their religious sacrifices to their own specifications. Today many Believers choose to justify disobedience.

In verse 10a, God makes an appeal for His people to "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple." (NLT) Our tithes are given to our local congregation for the upkeep of the building, the support of our leaders, and to further the ministry of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus criticized the Religious Leaders for their hypocrisy. He encouraged the people to practice what the religious leaders taught, but not to "...follow their example..." Matthew 23:3 (NLT). Jesus accused them of performing for the praise of men. Jesus addressed the giving of the religious leaders: "...Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you

ignore the more important aspects of the law - justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things." Matthew 23:23 (NLT) As Believers, tithing should be the beginning of what we offer in obedience to God. In 2 Corinthians 9, the Christians are collecting money for the suffering Christians in Jerusalem. Paul says they gave eagerly and enthusiastically; thus, motivating others to give. Paul encouraged Believers to give regularly (1 Corinthians 16:2) and willingly (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). He reminded them that "...God loves a

person who gives cheerfully." 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

Malachi 3:10b-12. Obedience is blessed by God. In these verses, God promises abundant blessings if the people will repent and turn back to Him. God didn't need their sacrifices. His desire was that His people would serve Him with obedient hearts. He challenges the people, "...If you do...

I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in!

Try it! Put me to the test!" Malachi 3:10b (NLT).

Jesus' life was a testament to how Believers should walk in the freedom of the Spirit. God provides for our needs (Matthew 6:19-34). As we walk in the Spirit, our giving should be an expression of our thankfulness to a gracious, heavenly Father.

God doesn't reward or discipline us by comparing our gifts to that of other Believers. He weighs our motives and

attitudes. Jesus cited a poor widow who gave two small coins as having "...given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on." Mark 12:43-44 (NLT). She gave out of her need, but her motives and her attitude were pure. If I see my brother in need, do I ignore him because I already paid my tithe? In admonishing us to love one another, John writes that "If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need, but shows no compassion - how can God's love be in that person?" 1 John 3:17 (NLT).

How much should a Believer give to God? A Tithe? Less? More? As with all of our choices, our giving falls under the two greatest commandments: "...you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." Mark 12:30-31 (NLT). Believers should give with grateful hearts to a Savior Who Gave His All for each of us. Start with a tithe and continue to give out of love and grace.

Bannister is a member of Woodville Church, Woodville.



Bible Studies for Life

with Lisa Bannister



Just for the Record



VICTORY CHURCH, COVINGTON-JEFF DAVIS ASSOCIATION, held a baby dedication service on Father's Day. Pictured from left are the McClures, the Bagleys, the Barbers, the Graves, and pastor Nathan Barber.



HARPERVILLE CHURCH, HARPERVILLE, held a baby dedication service June 17 that included (from left) Seth, Jax, and Megan McDaniel; pastor Bobby McKay, and Leah, Michael, and John Bergin.



(At left) **CROOKED CREEK CHURCH, SILVER CREEK**, held a Memorial Day service on May 27. In attendance was the Color Guard from Lawrence County High School (from left): Captain Ryan Huffstutler, Cadet D-An Turnage, and Ryan White (at podium). Dave Caves (on stage), transitional pastor. (At right) The church also recently held a baby dedication. Pictured from left are Allen and Damien Baker with Able, and transitional pastor Dave Caves.

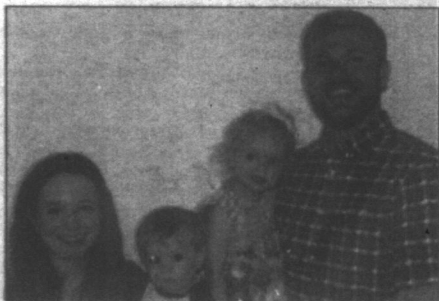


SOUTH LOUISVILLE CHURCH, LOUISVILLE, recognize their student Bible drill team.

In other Church News:

► **New Zion Church, Tylertown**, will present Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames July 22, 23, and 24, 7 p.m. Free admission. Not recommended for children under age 9. For information, call (601) 876-6932.

Staff Changes



ESCATAWPA CHURCH, ESCATAWPA, recently welcomed Matt Morse (right) as pastor. Pictured with Morse are (from left) wife Katherine and children Will and Providence.



FIRST CHURCH, WINONA, has called Jay Anderson (right) as pastor, effective May 13. Pictured with Anderson are (from left) wife Amy and children Jesse, Jared, and Savannah.



CONCORD CHURCH, DRY CREEK, welcomed new pastor Marvin Robbins and his wife Pam on their first Sunday at the church, May 20.



STRONG HOPE CHURCH, WESSON, held a banquet June 30 honoring pastor Robin Risher and his wife Tracy honoring him for 11 years of service. Risher is following a call to another ministry.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Jerusalem Church, Kosciusko**: Revival, July 15 - 18; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; finger foods following Wed. service; Gene Richardson, speaker.

► **Wayside Church, Yalobusha County**: Revival, July 15 - 17; Sun., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon. - Tues., 7 p.m.; Shane Crawford, speaker; Keith Harris, worship leader; Grayson Morrow, pianist.

► **Victory Church, Bassfield**: Revival, July 22 - 25; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Winders, speaker; Billy Smith, music; Nathan

Barber, pastor.

► **Holly Springs Church, Foxworth**: Revival, July 15 - 20; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal and afternoon service; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Bill Miller, pastor; Charlotte Ready, music.

► **Concord Church, Smith County**: Revival, July 15 - 18; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jay Westbrooks, speaker.

► **New Hope Church, Sumrall**: Revival, July 22 - 27; Sun., 11 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon service; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Ken Riley, speaker; James Stuart, music.

